



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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Pilot hospitalized at BAMC after crash

Web Posted: 12/15/2005 12:00 AM CST

San Antonio Express-News

An Air Force instructor pilot was seriously injured in Tuesday's crash of a T-38 Talon trainer and being treated at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Maj. Marc A. Montgomery was in critical but stable condition Wednesday night at BAMC, but neither Laughlin nor hospital spokesman Mike Dulevitz would discuss his injuries.

Montgomery and his student pilot, 2nd Lt. Jonathan Ballard, ejected from the jet near Brackettville while on a low-level training mission after takeoff from Laughlin AFB in Del Rio. Their two-seat, supersonic jet crashed around 3:45 p.m. after an apparent bird strike. Laughlin spokeswoman Kathy White did not know the plane's altitude but said the lowest level is typically 500 feet above ground.

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Ex-AF captain charged in murder-for-hire plot

Web Posted: 12/15/2005 12:00 AM CST

Guillermo Contreras
Express-News Staff Writer

The list read like a meal order: fajitas, little fajitas, meatloaf, T-bone, biscuits and gravy and hot tamales.

But Air Force investigators claim it was a list former Capt. Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamed, who was stationed at Brooks City-Base, drew up to have someone kill Mohamed's estranged wife, their infant son and witnesses in Mohamed's court-martial that put him behind bars for beating up his wife.

Court records said a man was to be paid \$2,000 for first killing the wife, and included discussions of planting illegal drugs on her to throw police off the trail.

This week, Air Force Office of Special Investigations officers hauled Mohamed, 41, a U.S. citizen of Egyptian descent, into federal court on an indictment alleging he conspired with his brother in interstate murder-for-hire.

The indictment, unsealed Monday, is the fruit of a probe that included having the "hitman," an informant, show Mohamed pictures of a staged crime scene showing Mohamed's wife had been killed.

None of the alleged targets was slain, but Mohamed and his brother, Elsayed Mahmoud Mohamed, are charged with using interstate facilities for murder-for-hire, two counts of conspiracy and retaliation of a witness.

At Mohamed's initial hearing Monday, U.S. Magistrate Judge John Primomo ordered him held without bond pending trial. He was in the Guadalupe County Jail on Wednesday.

His brother, also known as Tarek Mohamed, is accused of mailing money orders to him from South Carolina to finance the plan and helping seek out the alleged victims. He remained at large Wednesday.

If convicted, the pair could be sent to federal prison for life.

The indictment said Mohamed Mohamed hatched the plot and asked a fellow inmate at the jail in Seguin to carry it out to retaliate against the wife.

The indictment said Mohamed was court-martialed in December 2004 for assaulting his wife before and after she gave birth and for disobeying orders of the Air Force to stay away from the woman and her family.

He was sentenced to eight years in prison and dismissed from the Air Force.

At the jail, the indictment said, Mohamed showed the informant a list of people he wanted killed.

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The list referred to Mohamed's wife as "fajitas," their infant son as "little fajitas," an Air Force major as "meatloaf," and the lawyer who defended Mohamed at his court-martial as "T-bone." Two friends of his wife were referred to as "biscuits and gravy" and their daughter was "hot tamales," the indictment said.

In phone calls, Mohamed told his brother of the plot and asked him to help find the targets, the indictment said.

On April 1, 2005, the informant visited Mohamed in jail and showed him a photo of his wife's "murder scene," and Mohamed told the informant he would pay him \$2,000 over time, the indictment said.

That day Mohamed called his brother, and a week later Elsayed Mohamed went from North Carolina to South Carolina, allegedly to cover his tracks, and mailed him two \$1,000 money orders, the indictment said.

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Air Force Times



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Pilots eject from Talon after hitting bird

By [Rod Hafemeister](#)

Times staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — An instructor pilot and a student pilot ejected from their T-38C Talon aircraft Tuesday afternoon after apparently hitting a bird, Laughlin Air Force Base officials said.

The two pilots were on a low-level student training mission when their T-38C crashed near Brackettville about 3:45 p.m., according to a release from Laughlin.

The instructor pilot, Maj. Marc A. Montgomery, was transported to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio for evaluation. The student pilot, 2nd Lt. Jonathan Ballard, was transported to the 47th Medical Group clinic at Laughlin for evaluation. Their conditions were not immediately available.

Montgomery is assigned to Laughlin's 96th Flying Training Squadron. Ballard is assigned to the base's 87th Flying Training Squadron.

There were no ground fatalities as a result of the crash.

A board of officers will investigate the accident, officials said.



AETC News Clips

Keesler AFB, Miss.



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Council approves three condo projects One carried concerns of interference with Keesler

By MICHAEL NEWSOM

BILOXI - The City Council on Tuesday gave the go-ahead to three condo projects, two along U.S. 90 and one on the Back Bay.

Pelican Isle Resort Condominiums, Vue Cresente and Seaview Suites met with little opposition from the council.

The three projects were approved by the Planning Commission last month. The Vue Cresente development, planned for Bayview Avenue on the Back Bay, encountered more opposition than the others.

The 30-story development with 286 units would have a marina and a parking garage, along with a parking garage at the basement level, a lounge and restaurant.

It is classified as a "condotel," allowing the property to be used for both permanent residence and short-term stays.

Bill Stallworth, Ward 2 councilman, voted for Vue Cresente, which lies within his ward.

"This is a very good project, in terms of Keesler," Stallworth said. "Nothing encroached on Keesler's flight path."

The flight path of Keesler Air Force Base caused the only argument among council members over the Vue Cresente development. The height variance was the only vote not unanimous on the three developments.

Most councilmen said the high-rise will not interfere with Keesler Air Force Base's flight lines and they said a Keesler representative on the Planning Commission voiced no opposition to the development and voted in support of it.

Ward 1 Councilman George Lawrence voted against a height variance, which would take its height to 365 feet. He said it might interfere with Keesler's flight path, and could interfere with the base, because he said the base faces some uncertainty in light of the damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Ward 7 Councilman David Fayard also voted against the height variance, and Ward 6 Councilman Edward Gemmill abstained.

Pelican Isle Resort Condominiums, also approved, will have two towers - one 15 stories and one 16 stories. The project will lie close to the corner of DeBuys Road and U.S. 90 near the Olive Garden property.

Seaview Suites was also approved unanimously without discussion. The development would be nine stories and have 37 units located at the corner of McDonnell Avenue and U.S. 9

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Maxwell AFB, Ala.



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Officers to get war training by gaming

By **David Irvin**
Montgomery Advertiser

Think video games are just to entertain? Well, the Air Force is going to use them to educate its officers.

Starting next spring, officers attending Air University at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base will learn how to fight a war using simulations developed by Stottler Henke Associates, a California-based software company.

Besides simulations, the software will allow Air Force instructors to create simulations, directly involving experts in game development. Easy-to-use interfaces will allow instructors to do everything from build entirely new games or edit problems into something already created.

"Someone who is not extremely technical -- someone who is not a programmer -- can go in and use the framework to build the game," said Alex Davis, a knowledge engineer for Stottler Henke.

The games, sold under the trademark WarCon, will teach officers all aspects of an air war from putting aircraft over a target to shipping fuel and supplies to the theater of operation.

"A lot of the simulations will challenge them (officers) to make sure they will use the proper amounts of assets in the proper manner to achieve the goal," said 1st Lt. Tim Wade with Air University Public Affairs.

Those who play video games might compare the war simulations to "Command and Conquer," or some other strategy game with sky-high vantage points and military units scurrying around the screen, Stottler Henke officials said.

Many scenarios, however, go well beyond target destruction. They offer a look at the "complex geopolitical and strategic climate" of war, the developers said.

"When you are prosecuting an air war, you have other considerations than merely destroying your target," Davis said.

Under one scenario, trainees must consider the diplomatic, military and economic implications of dropping bombs.

Stottler Henke, which counts the Defense Department and NASA among its biggest customers, received \$750,000 to develop the simulations.

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Laughlin AFB, Texas



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DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

Eyewitness to crash gives own account

[By Jennifer Killin](#)

Published December 14, 2005, p. 1

BRACKETTVILLE – A Laughlin Air Force Base instructor pilot was severely injured when his T-38 “Talon” crashed during a low-level training flight about five miles east of here Tuesday afternoon.

A student pilot who was also on board the jet when it went down was not injured. Both the instructor and the student successfully ejected from the T-38 after it struck a bird, according to LAFB Community Affairs and Media Chief Kathy White.

The jet crashed on the Toft Ranch, located approximately five miles east of here and about a half-mile south of U.S. Highway 90.

An eyewitness to the crash, John Paul Schuster, said that he saw the event unfold while he was working at some livestock pens on his property north of where the T-38 crashed.

Schuster said he saw the jet “flying really low.”

He also said he heard the jet “making sounds I knew were not good.”

He said he then saw the jet’s canopy fly off and the pilots eject just seconds before the plane crashed.

“It was just like what you see in the movies,” said Schuster when describing the ejection and crash.

Schuster said that there was a loud explosion as the plane hit the ground, and a mushroom cloud formed immediately after.

Schuster called emergency personnel to report the crash and rushed to the scene to see if he could help.

At a rest area on Highway 90, across from one of the ranch gates used by emergency responders to access the crash site, Kinney County Constable Bobby Guidry said the wreckage of the jet was located nearly in the bed of Elm Creek and accessible only by driving on several miles of narrow dirt roads on the ranch.

According to Schuster, one of the jet’s two occupants, later identified by White as 2nd Lt. Jonathan Ballard, was up and walking around when he got to the scene.

“He was walking around and using his cell phone,” said Schuster when describing the pilot’s condition.

Schuster said he believed the other occupant, later identified as Maj. Marc A. Montgomery, an instructor pilot at Laughlin Air Force Base, had parachuted into the plane’s “fireball” and appeared to be severely burned.

“He couldn’t open his eyes and was complaining that his back was hurting really bad. Then he asked us not to call his wife,” said Schuster.

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Communications between emergency personnel and first responder units indicated that Montgomery was 44-years-old, and had sustained serious burns to his eyes, face and upper torso area and had sustained injuries to his back.

Montgomery was transported from the crash scene by ambulance to the town of Cline, located approximately 15 miles from the crash site near a railroad crossing on U.S. Highway 90, where he was then transported to Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

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DEL RIO NEWS HERALD **LAFB jet trainer, pilot crash**

[By Bill Sontag](#)

Published December 14, 2005, p. 1

A T-38C "Talon" jet crashed five miles east of Brackettville Tuesday afternoon, resulting in significant injuries to an instructor pilot and lesser injuries to the student pilot. Instructor and student were flying together on a low-level training mission, a routine sortie from Laughlin Air Force Base, when the apparent accident occurred.

About 3:45 p.m., the jet trainer apparently sustained a bird strike, a collision with a bird of unknown size or species at press time. The strike may have affected the high-performance jet engines, not an uncommon occurrence, though usually with less damaging consequences.

Maj. Marc A. Montgomery, instructor pilot from the 96th Flying Training Squadron, a reserve unit based at Laughlin, was supervising the training of 2nd Lt. Jonathan Ballard, 87th Flying Training Squadron, when the apparent strike occurred, sending the T-38C to the ground.

Both men ejected from the aircraft safely, according to information provided late Tuesday night by Laughlin Community Affairs and Media Chief Kathy White. According to White, the jet went down in scrubby, open ranchland, and no injuries or fatalities were reported on the ground.

News-Herald Senior Staff Writer Karen Gleason, near the command post Tuesday afternoon, learned that Montgomery apparently sustained burns to his head and upper torso.

He was airlifted to Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, while Ballard was transported to the base clinic operated by the 47th Medical Group at Laughlin.

White reported that emergency personnel from Kinney County and firefighters from Spofford Airfield responded to the scene immediately.

White notified Del Rio Mayor Dora G. Alcalá of the mishap Tuesday afternoon. Alcalá told the News-Herald, "I just found out a couple of hours ago, and I immediately called Col. Wolters [Tod D. Wolters, commander of the 47th Flying Training Wing], and of course he's busy investigating the crash and everything.

"I asked to have him call me, and to let him know that I was thinking about him, and, in particular, the pilots. I know they were able to get out safely, but they are in our prayers right now," Alcalá said.

White said a board of officers will investigate the accident, consistent with Air Force policy and procedure. Exact condition of Montgomery was not available at press time.

White, responding to a News-Herald inquiry, said the T-38C "Talon" is a \$3.8 million aircraft, and that it is almost certainly a total loss as a result of Tuesday's accident.

"I know there are millions of dollars lost," Alcalá said, "but you can't replace lives, and that's what's important right now."

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Lt. Col. Peter Bahm, commander of the 47th Civil Engineering Squadron, is the on-scene commander at the accident site, preserving the integrity of the debris field.

Capt. Lynn Sylmar, Judge Advocate General's office of the 47th Flying Training Wing, is also on-site, ensuring that private property rights are protected for rancher Brett Trant, on whose property the accident occurred.

"Mr. Trant has been completely cooperative, very supportive of our efforts here," Sylmar said Wednesday morning.

Also Wednesday, White said that the Air Force will convene an Accident Investigation Board and a Safety Investigation Board to review all evidence for possible causes of the accident.



[News-Herald Photo](#)

Pilot, student survive T-38 crash

The charred tail section of the T-38C "Talon" that crashed about 3 miles east of Brackettville Tuesday afternoon, came to rest in this ranch road.

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